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**YOUR WEEKEND
GUIDE TO SHOPPING**
GUSTO, PAGE 16



**Trying to clarify
the Bills' thinking**
SPORTS, PAGE B1

BLACK FRIDAY HAS CHANGED. HERE'S WHY:



Sharon Cantillon/Bufalo News

Among the reasons for Black Friday losing some of its luster is the fact that many stores are open on Thanksgiving, as evidenced at J.C. Penney in Boulevard Mall in Amherst last year, when bargain boots were bought by the stack.

You've heard it all before. Black Friday isn't what it used to be. The deals aren't as great. People would rather shop online than brave the crowds. Sales start as early as August, dampening shopper enthusiasm. And stores open on Thanksgiving, stealing Friday's thunder.

But in the Buffalo Niagara region, Black Friday has changed in another important way: It's no longer a magnet for the hordes of Canadian shoppers who used to cross the border and revel in the festivities.

Buffalo Niagara retailers have long counted on Canadian cross-border shoppers to keep their cash registers ringing. But for the last couple of years, a weakened loonie



Discount Diva

BY SAMANTHA CHRISTMANN

has slowed the flow of Canadians crossing the border to shop in Buffalo Niagara.

That diminished buying power, along with new shopping choices in Ontario, a "shop local" movement in Canada and Canadian retailers' adoption of Black Friday promotions online

and in stores, have tempered Canadians' enthusiasm and kept many of them home during Black Friday weekend.

Experts are optimistic that a slightly higher loonie will help bring Canadians back here over the long Black Friday weekend, but only time will tell how robust this year's turnout will be.

See **Shopping** on Page A9

Experts are optimistic that a slightly higher loonie will help bring Canadians back here over the long Black Friday weekend, but only time will tell how robust this year's turnout will be.

With 'heart as big as the sun,' he raised her like a daughter, then was murdered

BY AARON BESECKER
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

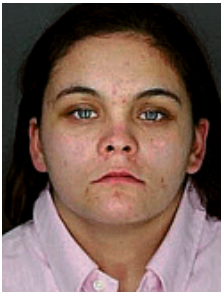
Thomas D. Heath raised Alexandria Heath like she was his own child, even though she wasn't.

He called "Allie" his daughter. She called him dad.

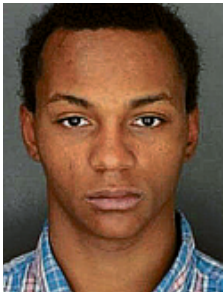
But Friday, she and her boyfriend killed him, according to Buffalo police.

The 17-year-old was actually Heath's stepgranddaughter – a daughter of his ex-wife's daughter from another relationship.

In recent months, the teenager caused him more and more grief, a



Alexandria Heath, 17, and boyfriend Romaine Jirdon, 19, are due in City Court today on charges of killing her stepgrandfather, Thomas D. Heath.



friend of Heath said. In the last few years, Allie started associating with individuals of whom Heath wasn't particularly fond.

But Heath kept his heartache private, said Bill Zimmerman, Heath's friend for more than 20 years. Heath, who worked as a welder and pipe fitter and was a cancer survivor, kept working to be a good parent and kept loving Allie, Zimmerman said.

"He just had a heart as big as the sun," Zimmerman said.

Authorities have accused Alexan-

See **Homicide** on Page A5

Lovejoy sees most checkpoints by Buffalo police

Residents feel traffic stops help keep their district safer, Fontana says

BY DEIDRE WILLIAMS
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Buffalo police conducted more traffic checkpoints this year in Lovejoy than in any other Common Council district, according to figures released Tuesday.

But no one's complaining to Lovejoy Common Council Member Richard A. Fontana about the 92 checkpoints in his district.

"No one's complained to me," Fontana said. "They realize it's keeping the community safer. I want to commend the police for using proper judgment."

The North and Fillmore districts had the next-highest number of checks, 68 and 65, respectively.

Meanwhile, checkpoints were less common in other districts. The districts with the fewest checkpoints were University, 34; Delaware, 35; and Ellicott, 43.

"I have no preference whether there are more or less checks in the Ellicott District, as long as all of the checks are conducted fairly and with an explainable strategy and process across the city," said Common Council President Darius G. Pridgen, who represents the Ellicott District.

The three other districts – South, Masten and Niagara – each had roughly the average number of checkpoints, 57.

Buffalo's traffic check-

University, Delaware see fewest stops

Council district	2017 traffic checkpoints
Lovejoy	92
North	68
Fillmore	65
South	59
Masten	58
Niagara	57
Ellicott	43
Delaware	35
University	34
Total	511

Note: Number of Buffalo Police Department traffic checkpoints in 2017 through Oct. 31

Source: Buffalo Police Department

points came under fire in August by members of Black Lives Matter-Buffalo, who asked the state Attorney General's Office to open an investigation into the Buffalo Police Department. The group alleged police routinely discriminate against people of color.

The group cited a study by the University at Buffalo Law School and Cornell University that found Buffalo police participated in "routine, daily suspicion-less crime-suppression checkpoints" in a letter to the Attorney General's Office.

In the two years after Buffalo police in 2012 formed the "Strike Force Unit," which uses checkpoints as part of its strat-

See **Checkpoints** on Page A9



NO END IN SIGHT FOR LAWYER FIGHT

Stephen Barnes says his partner Ross Cellino is trying to destroy the value of their law firm as their long legal battle winds on. *Story on Page C1*

Uber discloses that accounts were hacked

Security chief fired for keeping it secret

BY MIKE ISAAC
AND KATIE BENNER

NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO – Uber on Tuesday disclosed that it was the victim of a data breach in October 2016 that affected 57 million driver and rider accounts and that it fired its chief security officer, Joe Sullivan, for keeping the breach a secret for more than a year.

The ride-hailing company said information on driver and rider names, emails and telephone numbers had been compromised by the attack. After the breach, two hackers approached Uber demanding payment for the stolen data and proof of the deletion of the data. Uber did not make the breach

Inside: AT&T IS CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF DEVELOPMENTS BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND FCC. PAGE A6

public and instead paid the hackers \$100,000 to ensure the stolen data was expunged.

The issue came to light in recent months after an investigation by Uber's board into the company's past, in which board members looked at several internal practices. Dara Khosrowshahi, who was chosen to be the chief executive in late August, said he only recently learned of the incident and decided to take action.

"None of this should have happened, and I will not make excuses for it," Khosrowshahi said in a company blog post.

See **Uber** on Page A5

INDEX

Business	C7	Crossword	D8, D10	Lotteries	C2	Scoreboard	D6
City & Region	C1	Dear Abby	B6	Obituaries	C4	Sports	D1
Classified	D7	Food	B3	Opinion	A10	Taste	B1
Comics	B4	Letters	A11	Picture Page	C6	Television	B6



WEATHER

Much colder, cloudier. High 34, low 27. Details on Page C10.



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